

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4587

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AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0463

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TAGS :PINT,SF

SUBJ :APPOINTMENTS TO CRC

REF :CAPE TOWN 0421

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. LABOR PARTY LEADER LEON IS PREPARING TO USE THE COLORED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL AS A MEANS OF ATTAINING COLORED OBJECTIVES. HE HAS GIVEN AN INDICATION OF HIS PRIORITIES AND SEEMS TO HAVE OVERCOME OPPOSITION WITHIN THE PARTY TO HAVING MEMBERS FILE NOMINATICE SEATS. WHEN THE CRC CONVENES ON MAY 13 HE WILL CONTROL A MAJORITY OF AT LEAST 35 OF THE 60 SEATS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 20 MINISTER OF COLORED RELATIONS ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF S.L.(' SONNY') LEON AS CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE OF COLORED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL(CRC) AND RELEASED NAMES OF 20 NOMINATICE CRC MEMBERS.

3. IN ADDITION TO TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF CAPE MALAYS AND TWO OF GRIQUA COMMUNITY. LIST OF NOMINEES INCLUDES FOUR LABOR PARTY MEMBERS(ONE OF WHOM WAS DEFEATED IN MARCH 19 UNCLASSIFIED

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ELECTIONS); THREE FEDERAL PARTY MEMBERS(ALL DEFEATED

DURING MARCH 19 ELECTIONS); W.T.SWARTZ(ONE-TIME REPRESENTATIVE OF DEFUNCT NATIONAL COLORED PEOPLES PARTY WHO AT ONE TIME 'AMALGAMATED' WITH FEDERAL PARTY); MORRIS FLYNN OF QUASI-DEFUNCT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY; AND SEVEN SUPPOSEDLY NON-POLITICAL PERSONS(UP TO FIVE OF WHOM IDENTIFIED BY VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS AS PRO-FEDERAL PARTY).

4. ALTHOUGH LABOR PARTY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE HAD CALLED ON LEON TO WITHDRAW HIS LIST OF SUGGESTED NOMINEES(REFTEL) IT APPEARS AS IF PARTY WILL ALLOW ITS MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO CRC SEATS TO ACCEPT'IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY'. AT LEAST, THIS IS GIST OF PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY PARTY'S EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN,HENDRICKSE,WHO HAD LED CRITICISM OF LEON FOR HAVING SUBMITTED NAMES FOR NOMINATION IN FIRST PLACE.

5. LABOR SHOULD NOW BE ABLE TO COUNT ON SUPPORT OF AT LEAST 35 PARTY MEMBERS IN 60-MEMBER CRC, IN ADDITION TO SOME OF THE NON-LABOR NOMINATED MEMBERS.

6. IN COMMENTING TO THE PRESS, LEON SAID THAT HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CRC EXECUTIVE SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS ACCEPTANCE OF THE CRC'AS A VEHICLE PROVIDED BY THE STATE', THE LABOR PARTY WOULD USE IT. TO GAIN THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE--POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FREEDOM FOR THE COLORED PEOPLE. HE ALSO GAVE SOME IDEA OF HIS PRIORITIES BY LISTING, AS NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE(THAT 'MUST OVERRIDE ANY ODEOLOGY'), POSITIVE CHANGES IN OUTDATED POLICIES THAT STIFLE PROGRESS OF THE NATION IN THE FIELD OF RACE RELATIONS; IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATIONS TO MEET IMMEDIATE HOUSING NEEDS; EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT RESTRICTION AND RAPID EQUALIZATION OF PENSIONS AND SALARIES. LEON ALSO TOLD PRESS HE INTENDS SCRAP CRC LIAISON COMMITTEE (WHICH SERVED AS FORMAL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FIRST CRC AND GOVERNMENT AND WHICH LABOR PARTY HAD BOYCOTTED) BUT WAS UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT HE BELIEVES SHOULD REPLACE IT. HE ADDED THAT LABOR PARTY WOULD AGREE TO SERVE ON SOME STATUTORY BODIES(CAPE TOWN 0740,NOVEMBER 8, 1974) ONLY ON THE BASIS OF 'EQUAL REPRESENTATION.'

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7. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO SOME OF HIS CAMPAIGN DECLARATIONS LEON IS PREPARING HIS PARTY TO USE ITS POSITION OF LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE CRC TO WORK FOR COLORED OBJECTIVES. HE APPARENTLY HAS NEUTRALIZED THOSE FUNCTIONS WHICH MAINTAINED THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE ABOLISHED BECAUSE IT IS AN INSTRUMENT OF APARTHEID.

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